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15 February 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. James Pooney
Special Assistant to the
Director of the Bureau of
Domestic Commerce
Department of Commerce

SUBJECT: Japan's Exports of Oil Country
Tubular Goods

In response to our telephone conversation we are forwarding you the attached information on Japan's exports of oil country tubular goods. During the past year exports of these items have risen sharply, primarily because of higher deliveries to China, and Persian Gulf countries. Shipments slipped in November because of energy related problems affecting the steel industry, but we estimate that Japanese steelmakers can probably boost their output considerably over the course of 1974. If there is any further information required on this or related subjects we would be happy to oblige.

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Industrial Nations Division
Office of Economic Research

Attachment:
As stated

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Japan's Exports of Oil Country Tubular Goods

1. During the first 11 months of 1973 Japan's export volume of seamless tubular oil country goods (drill pipe, casing, and tubing) increased 28% compared with the same 1973 period. Practically all the increase went to the United Arab Emirates, China, and Saudi Arabia. Exports to the United States and Iran decreased by about 10% (See Table 1). Shipments of oil country tubulars to oil producing nations comprised 27% of Japan's total exports of steel to those areas in 1973. Exports of oil country tubulars to all destinations declined by 15% in November compared with October as the energy crisis in Japan began to take its toll of steel output.

2. Exports of drill pipe, casing, and tubing will not increase much, if at all, during the first quarter of 1974 when overall steel output is expected to drop by 4 million tons because of fuel oil and electric power shortages. For the year as a whole, however, overseas deliveries of these goods could be increased substantially from last year's estimated 700,000 tons. Japan has the capacity to produce 9 million tons of pipes, of which about 1.5 million tons is seamless tubing

with an expected downturn in domestic demand for seamless tubing in 1974 at least some of that capacity can be shifted in favor to oil country tubular goods.

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Japan: Exports of Oil Country Tubular Goods

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total	524,395	411,135	+28
of which			
China	109,852	34,954	+214
Saudi Arabia	67,146	38,914	+73
USA	62,676	70,453	-11
United Arab Emirates	44,995	8,333	+440
Indonesia	39,995	41,038	-3
Canada	28,681	25,838	+11
Iran	25,074	27,802	-10
Singapore	23,287	19,578	+19
Brunei	20,723	11,618	+78
Nigeria	16,238	14,523	+12
Other	85,731	118,084	62

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